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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/802,068	03/08/2001	Eliot M. Case	1810 / USW 0615 PUS	5285

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EXAMINER

KNOWLIN, THUAN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2642

DATE MAILED: 05/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/802,068

Applicant(s)

CASE ET AL.

Examiner

Thjuan P Knowlin

Art Unit

2642

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Smith et al (US 6,404,876).
2. In regards to claim 1, Smith discloses a method for directory assistance in response to a call from a caller, the method comprising: receiving the call; determining if the call is a request for directory assistance and, if not, routing the call as dialed through a call routing telecommunications network (POTS and PSTN 3); if the call is a request for directory assistance, routing the call through an intelligent service peripheral (Intelligent Peripheral Controller Host 8 and Resource Platform 9) to a speech recognizer (Integrated Voice Recognition and Response units 12) (col. 8 lines 7-21), the intelligent service peripheral being separate from the call routing telecommunications network (Fig. 1); in the intelligent service peripheral, determining the type of directory assistance requested; if the caller is not requesting business directory assistance, routing the call through the telecommunications network to a call center (col. 7 lines 12-22, col. 8 lines 31-39, col. 10 lines 15-28, and col. 14 lines 34-41); if the caller is

requesting business directory assistance, automatically determining at least one telephone number satisfying the caller request without communication through the call routing telecommunications network by searching in a directory database associated with the intelligent service peripheral, thereby limiting use of the call routing telecommunications network (col. 8 lines 7-30).

3. In regards to claims 2 and 11, Smith discloses a method and system for directory assistance, wherein the caller requests business information by business name (col. 12 lines 3-7).

4. In regards to claims 3 and 12, Smith discloses a method and system for directory assistance, wherein the caller requests business information by business category (col. 12 lines 3-11).

5. In regards to claims 4 and 13, Smith discloses a method and system for directory assistance, wherein determining at least one telephone number is based on the location of the caller (col. 3 lines 31-37 and col. 4-5 lines 63-5).

6. In regards to claims 5 and 14, Smith discloses the method and system for directory assistance, further comprising: querying the caller for automatic connection; and if the caller requests automatic connection, routing the call through the telecommunications network to a selected connection number (col. 8 lines 7-30).

7. In regards to claims 6 and 15, Smith discloses the method and system for directory assistance, further comprising: determining that the caller is having problems automatically obtaining business directory assistance; and routing the call to a call center (col. 10 lines 15-28).

8. In regards to claims 7 and 16, Smith discloses the method and system for directory assistance, further comprising supplying the call center with information about the caller activity (col. 14 lines 25-41).

9. In regards to claims 8 and 17, Smith discloses the method and system for directory assistance, wherein determining if the call is a request for directory assistance is based on a dialing pattern entered by the caller (col. 8 lines 22-29 and col. 10 lines 15-28).

10. In regards to claim 9, Smith discloses the method and system for providing directory assistance without using a call routing network for business directory assistance, wherein a call for directory assistance is routed to a speech recognizer to determine the type of assistance requested, wherein the speech recognizer is separate from the call routing network (Fig. 1), and, if the request is for business information, automatically retrieving requested business directory assistance information by searching in a directory database associated with the intelligent service peripheral without communication through the call routing network, otherwise routing the call through the routing network to a call center (col. 7 lines 12-22, col. 8 lines 31-39, col. 10 lines 15-28, and col. 14 lines 34-41).

11. In regards to claim 10, Smith discloses a system for directory assistance comprising: at least one switch (Matrix Switch 7) for routing incoming calls to either an intelligent service peripheral or a call routing network, the switch determining if an incoming call is a request for directory assistance, routing requests for directory assistance to the intelligent service peripheral and routing non-requests for directory

assistance to the call routing network, thereby limiting use of the call routing telecommunications network; a database holding business directory information (col. 13-14 lines 63-3); at least one call center (col. 10 lines 25-28); and a speech recognizer (Integrated Voice Recognition and Response units 12) in communication with the at least one switch, the database and the at least one call center (Fig. 1), the speech recognizer associated with the intelligent service peripheral and in communication with the at least one switch, the database and the at least one call center, the speech recognizer determining if the request for directory assistance is for business information and, if so, accessing the database to satisfy the request, otherwise routing the call to the call center (col. 7 lines 12-22, col. 8 lines 31-39, col. 10 lines 15-28, and col. 14 lines 34-41).

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. McAllister et al (US 6,421,672) teach an apparatus for and method of disambiguation of directory listing searches utilizing multiple selectable secondary search keys.

14. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


15. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thjuan P Knowlin whose telephone number is (703) 308-1727. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30pm.

17. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (703)305-4731. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

18. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thjuan P. Knowlin
May 2, 2004


AHMAD F. MATAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2700